and over 3 lakh family type biogas plants were set up under the National biogas and Manure Management Programme.

Financial assistance for energy from NCES

2488. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Tamil Nadu has submitted any proposal seeking financial assistance for providing energy from non-conventional energy sources in the States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether these proposals have been approved, if so, the amount of assistance proposed to be extended for these proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) to (c) Proposals from State Governments, including Tamil Nadu, for the grant of Central financial assistance under various schemes/programmes of the Ministry of Non-conventional Energy Sources are received on a regular basis. At times, these proposals are found to be incomplete or not in line with the provisions of the schemes/ programmes. Complete proposals are considered and approved subject to budget provision, which is a continuous process.Central financial assistance aggregating over Rs. 20.83 crore has been provided towards various non-conventional energy projects/ programmes in Tamil Nadu during the first four years of the Tenth Plan.

Production of power through sky wind power

†2489. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering the possibilities of producing power through 'sky wind power';

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, Government's response on the recent reports in the print media;

(d) whether Government would make efforts to provide solar energy equipments particularly solar lamps in the country especially in rural areas at concessional rates; and

(e) if so, the date since when the availability of the above said equipments at concessional rates would be possible?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Government is aware of a press report entitled 'Udte Bijaligharon Se Milegi Bijali' appeared in 'Hindustan' daily dated 23rd July, 2006 regarding an idea evolved by an American Company *i.e.* Sky Wind Power for generation of electricity through installation of flying wind electric generators at an altitude of 15,000 feet in the sky which will feed electricity to the ground through cable. Presently it is only in a conceptual stage.

(d) and (e) The Government is implementing solar photovoltaic demonstration programme and solar photovoltaic water pumping programme for development and utilization of solar energy in the country, specially the rural areas. In addition, the Government is implementing a programme on solar lanterns in un-electrified villages of the special category States. Under the Remote Village Electrification Programme, the Ministry provide subsidy for generation of electricity through various non-conventional energy sources including solar photovoltaic systems. A number of incentives like subsidy, soft loan, 80% accelerated depreciation, concessional duty on import of raw materials and certain products, excise duty exemption on certain devices/systems etc. are being provided by the Government for production and use of solar energy systems.